

REMARKS

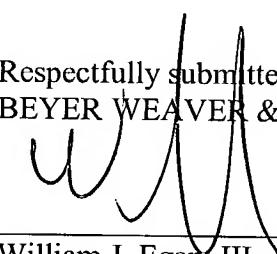
Claims 8, 17, 24, 29, and 36 have been amended, and claims 37-50 have been added by this Amendment. No new matter has been added.

The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the claims at the earliest possible date is requested.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Dated: 5/26/04

Respectfully submitted,  
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

  
William J. Egan, III  
Reg. No. 28,411

P.O. Box 778  
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778